

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS Sheila Finnegan 206 B Garvin Boulevard Sharon Hill, PA 19079 (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff <u>Delaware</u> (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) (c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Graham F. Baird, Law Office of Eric A. Shore 2 Penn Center, 1500 JFK Blvd, Suite 1240, Philadelphia PA 19102 Tel: 267-546-0131	DEFENDANTS FarmArt Produce 1111 East Ashland Avenue Folcroft, PA 19032 County of Residence of First Listed Defendant <u>Philadelphia</u> (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED. Attorneys (If Known)
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II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)																
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff <input type="checkbox"/> 2 U.S. Government Defendant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party) <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	<table style="width:100%;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">PTF</th> <th style="text-align: left;">DEF</th> <th style="text-align: left;">PTF</th> <th style="text-align: left;">DEF</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Citizen of This State</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 1</td> <td>Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Citizen of Another State</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 2</td> <td>Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 3</td> <td>Foreign Nation</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 6</td> </tr> </table>	PTF	DEF	PTF	DEF	Citizen of This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Citizen of Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Foreign Nation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
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Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Foreign Nation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6														

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)			Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.		
CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	<input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability Habeas Corpus: <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty Other: <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <input type="checkbox"/> 880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit (15 USC 1681 or 1692) <input type="checkbox"/> 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 Original Proceeding	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Removed from State Court	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Remanded from Appellate Court	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Reinstated or Reopened	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Transferred from Another District (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File	

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): <u>29 U.S.C.A. §621, et seq.</u> Brief description of cause: <u>Age Discrimination in Employment Act</u>
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VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.	DEMAND \$ <u>150,000</u>	CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY	(See instructions): JUDGE _____ DOCKET NUMBER _____
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DATE <u>5/21/2021</u>	SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD
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FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	RECEIPT # _____	AMOUNT _____	APPLYING IFP _____	JUDGE _____	MAG. JUDGE _____
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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR
THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

	:	CIVIL ACTION
Sheila Finnegan	:	
v.	:	
FarmArt Produce	:	
	:	NO.

In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:

- (a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255. ()
- (b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits. ()
- (c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2. ()
- (d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos. ()
- (e) Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases.) ()
- (f) Standard Management – Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks. (X)

5/21/2021	Graham F. Baird	Sheila Finnegan
Date	Attorney-at-law	Attorney for
267-546-0131	215-944-6124	GrahamB@ericshore.com
Telephone	FAX Number	E-Mail Address

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGNATION FORM

(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

Address of Plaintiff: 206 B Garvin Boulevard, Sharon Hill, PA 19079

Address of Defendant: 1111 East Ashland Avenue, Folcroft, PA 19032

Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: 1111 East Ashland Avenue, Folcroft, PA 19032

RELATED CASE, IF ANY:


Case Number: _____ Judge: _____ Date Terminated: _____

Civil cases are deemed related when *Yes* is answered to any of the following questions:

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action of this court? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case ☐ is / ☒ is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.

DATE: 5/21/2021


Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff

92692

Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)

CIVIL: (Place a ☒ in one category only)

A. Federal Question Cases:

- ☐ 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts
- ☐ 2. FELA
- ☐ 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury
- ☐ 4. Antitrust
- ☐ 5. Patent
- ☐ 6. Labor-Management Relations
- ☒ 7. Civil Rights
- ☐ 8. Habeas Corpus
- ☐ 9. Securities Act(s) Cases
- ☐ 10. Social Security Review Cases
- ☐ 11. All other Federal Question Cases

(Please specify): _____

B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:

- ☐ 1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts
- ☐ 2. Airplane Personal Injury
- ☐ 3. Assault, Defamation
- ☐ 4. Marine Personal Injury
- ☐ 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
- ☐ 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify): _____
- ☐ 7. Products Liability
- ☐ 8. Products Liability – Asbestos
- ☐ 9. All other Diversity Cases

(Please specify): _____

ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION


(The effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.)

I, Graham F. Baird, counsel of record or pro se plaintiff, do hereby certify:

☒ Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, § 3(c) (2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs:

☐ Relief other than monetary damages is sought.

DATE: 5/21/2021


Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff

92692

Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)

NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

SHEILA FINNEGAN
206 B Garvin Boulevard
Sharon Hill, PA 19079

Plaintiff,

v.

FARMART PRODUCE
1111 East Ashland Avenue
Folcroft, PA 19032

Defendant.

:
:
:
:
:
:
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:
:
:
:
:
:

JURY DEMANDED

No.

CIVIL ACTION COMPLAINT

I. Parties and Reasons for Jurisdiction.

1. Plaintiff, SHEILA FINNEGAN (hereinafter “Plaintiff”) is an adult individual residing at the above address.

2. Defendant, FARMART PRODUCE (hereinafter “Defendant”) is a business corporation organized by and operating under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and having a principal place of business at the above captioned address.

3. At all times material hereto, Defendant qualified as Plaintiff’s employer pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act and as defined under Pennsylvania common law.

4. This action is instituted pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act.

5. Jurisdiction is conferred by 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343.

6. Supplemental jurisdiction over the Plaintiff’s state law claim is conferred pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

7. Plaintiff has satisfied the administrative prerequisites and exhausted her administrative remedies prior to bringing this civil rights claim. [Exh. A.]

8. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) and (b)(2), venue is properly laid in this district because Defendant conducts business in this district, and because a substantial part of the acts and/or omissions giving rise to the claims set forth herein occurred in this judicial district. Plaintiff was working in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania at the time of the illegal actions by Defendant as set forth herein.

II. Operative Facts.

9. Plaintiff is currently a fifty-seven (57) year old woman.

10. On or about May 20, 2014, Defendant hired Plaintiff as a customer service associate.

11. During her employment, Plaintiff was promoted to a customer service lead position.

12. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff was the oldest female employee at the time of her termination.

13. In or around November or December of 2019, Defendant hired two new female employees to replace two other employees who had left, both of which were below the age of fifty (50).

14. Upon information and belief, one of the new employees was in her mid-thirties; the other was in her early forties.

15. Prior to this, Defendant had switched to a new system for taking orders which several employees complained to Defendant about, stating it was creating errors.

16. On or about January 27, 2020, Plaintiff was presented with an “employee counseling statement” after an assessment, which stated that she was receiving a written warning for making “too many errors.”

17. Additionally, during this review, Defendant informed Plaintiff that it was “doing away” with her customer service lead position, since Lisa and Veronica, the two employees who had left, were no longer there.

18. Plaintiff’s role was changed back to customer service associate, although her pay remained the same.

19. Following this assessment, Plaintiff never received any follow-up regarding her performance; however, shortly thereafter the order system was switched back to the prior, less mistake prone system.

20. Prior to this assessment, Plaintiff was a top performer for Defendant.

21. In March of 2020, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and quarantine, Defendant laid off several employees and cut Plaintiff’s hours to part time, during which she filed for partial unemployment.

22. Defendant began offering home delivery service, subsequently re-hiring the two younger women that had been laid off and placing them into delivery positions.

23. Plaintiff’s hours remained part-time, and she was not trained on nor assigned any of the home delivery work.

24. On or about April 3, 2020, Defendant returned all the employees to their full-time hours and positions, except for Plaintiff who was informed that her employment was being terminated.

25. Plaintiff was given no additional explanation as to the reason for her termination.

26. Plaintiff also became aware that an older night manager who had been employed by Defendant longer than herself had also been terminated by Defendant, stating they “didn’t need him anymore.”

27. Upon information and belief, this employee’s workload was subsumed by a younger male employee who was in his late twenties.

28. At all times material hereto, Defendant was hostile to Plaintiff’s age, and terminated her as a result of that animus.

29. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants’ conduct in terminating Plaintiff, she sustained great economic loss, future lost earning capacity, lost opportunity, loss of future wages, as well emotional distress, pain and suffering and other damages as set forth below.

III. Causes of Action.

COUNT I—AGE DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT ACT 29 U.S.C.A. §621, et seq.

30. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1-29 as if fully set forth at length herein.

31. Plaintiff is over fifty (50) years of age.

32. Defendant terminated Plaintiff’s employment.

33. At all times, Plaintiff was qualified to perform the work for which she was hired by Defendant.

34. Upon information and belief, subsequent to her termination Plaintiff’s job duties were divided up amongst other younger employees.

35. As set forth above, Plaintiff was treated less favorable than other younger employees.

36. As such, Defendant has violated the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, 29 U.S.C.A. §621, et seq.

37. As a proximate result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff sustained significant damages, including but not limited to: great economic loss, future lost earning capacity, lost opportunity, loss of future wages, loss of front pay, loss of back pay, as well as emotional distress, pain and suffering, consequential damages and Plaintiff has also sustained work loss, loss of opportunity, and a permanent diminution of earning power and capacity and a claim is made therefore.

38. As a result of the conduct of Defendant's owners/management, Plaintiff hereby demands punitive damages.

39. Plaintiff demands attorney fees and court costs.

COUNT II—PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS ACT
43 Pa.C.S.A. §951, et seq.
(Plaintiff v. Defendants)

40. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1-39 as if fully set forth at length herein.

41. As set forth above, Plaintiff is a member of a protected class.

42. Defendants terminated Plaintiff's employment.

43. As set forth above, a motivating factor in the decision to terminate Plaintiff's employment is Plaintiff's age.

44. Plaintiff suffered disparate treatment in the manner in which she was terminated as compared to similarly situated younger employees, who received more favorable treatment by Defendant.

45. As such, Defendant violated the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, 43 Pa.C.S.A. §951, et seq.

46. As a proximate result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff sustained significant damages, including but not limited to: great economic loss, future lost earning capacity, lost

opportunity, loss of future wages, loss of front pay, loss of back pay, as well as emotional distress, pain and suffering, consequential damages and Plaintiff has also sustained work loss, loss of opportunity, and a permanent diminution of earning power and capacity and a claim is made therefore.

47. Plaintiff demands attorneys' fees and court costs.

IV. Relief Requested.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, SHEILA FINNEGAN demands judgment in her favor and against Defendant, FARMART PRODUCE, in an amount in excess of \$150,000.00 together with:

- A. Compensatory damages, including but not limited to: back pay, front pay, past lost wages, future lost wages. Lost pay increases, lost pay incentives, lost opportunity, lost benefits, lost future earning capacity, injury to reputation, mental and emotional distress, pain and suffering;
- B. Punitive damages;
- C. Liquidated damages;
- D. Attorneys fees and costs of suit;
- E. Interest, delay damages; and,
- F. Any other further relief this Court deems just proper and equitable.

LAW OFFICES OF ERIC A. SHORE, P.C.

BY: 

GRAHAM F. BAIRD, ESQUIRE

Two Penn Center
1500 JFK Boulevard, Suite 1240
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Attorney for Plaintiff, Sheila Finnegan

Date: 5/21/2021

EXH. A

U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

DISMISSAL AND NOTICE OF RIGHTS

To: **Sheila M. Finnegan**
206B Garvin Blvd
Sharon Hill, PA 19079

From: **Philadelphia District Office**
801 Market Street
Suite 1000
Philadelphia, PA 19107



On behalf of person(s) aggrieved whose identity is
 CONFIDENTIAL (29 CFR §1601.7(a))

EEOC Charge No.

EEOC Representative

Telephone No.

530-2020-03789

Legal Unit

(267) 589-9707

THE EEOC IS CLOSING ITS FILE ON THIS CHARGE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:



The facts alleged in the charge fail to state a claim under any of the statutes enforced by the EEOC.



Your allegations did not involve a disability as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act.



The Respondent employs less than the required number of employees or is not otherwise covered by the statutes.



Your charge was not timely filed with EEOC; in other words, you waited too long after the date(s) of the alleged discrimination to file your charge



The EEOC issues the following determination: The EEOC will not proceed further with its investigation, and makes no determination about whether further investigation would establish violations of the statute. This does not mean the claims have no merit. This determination does not certify that the respondent is in compliance with the statutes. The EEOC makes no finding as to the merits of any other issues that might be construed as having been raised by this charge.



The EEOC has adopted the findings of the state or local fair employment practices agency that investigated this charge.



Other (briefly state)

- NOTICE OF SUIT RIGHTS -

(See the additional information attached to this form.)

Title VII, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act: This will be the only notice of dismissal and of your right to sue that we will send you. You may file a lawsuit against the respondent(s) under federal law based on this charge in federal or state court. Your lawsuit **must be filed WITHIN 90 DAYS of your receipt of this notice**; or your right to sue based on this charge will be lost. (The time limit for filing suit based on a claim under state law may be different.)

Equal Pay Act (EPA): EPA suits must be filed in federal or state court within 2 years (3 years for willful violations) of the alleged EPA underpayment. This means that **backpay due for any violations that occurred more than 2 years (3 years) before you file suit may not be collectible.**

On behalf of the Commission



Jamie R. Williamson,
 District Director

March 1, 2021

(Date Issued)

Enclosures(s)

cc:

Jacqueline K. Gallagher, Esq.
BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY
50 S. 16th Street, Suite 3200
Two Liberty Place
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Luker, Dana
2 Penn Center, Suite 1240
1500 J.F.K. Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19102

**INFORMATION RELATED TO FILING SUIT
UNDER THE LAWS ENFORCED BY THE EEOC**

*(This information relates to filing suit in Federal or State court under Federal law.
If you also plan to sue claiming violations of State law, please be aware that time limits and other
provisions of State law may be shorter or more limited than those described below.)*

**PRIVATE SUIT RIGHTS -- Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA),
the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA), or the Age
Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA):**

In order to pursue this matter further, you must file a lawsuit against the respondent(s) named in the charge **within 90 days of the date you receive this Notice**. Therefore, you should **keep a record of this date**. Once this 90-day period is over, your right to sue based on the charge referred to in this Notice will be lost. If you intend to consult an attorney, you should do so promptly. Give your attorney a copy of this Notice, and its envelope or record of receipt, and tell him or her the date you received it. Furthermore, in order to avoid any question that you did not act in a timely manner, it is prudent that your suit be filed **within 90 days of the date this Notice was issued to you** (as indicated where the Notice is signed) or the date of the postmark or record of receipt, if later.

Your lawsuit may be filed in U.S. District Court or a State court of competent jurisdiction. (Usually, the appropriate State court is the general civil trial court.) Whether you file in Federal or State court is a matter for you to decide after talking to your attorney. Filing this Notice is not enough. You must file a "complaint" that contains a short statement of the facts of your case which shows that you are entitled to relief. Your suit may include any matter alleged in the charge or, to the extent permitted by court decisions, matters like or related to the matters alleged in the charge. Generally, suits are brought in the State where the alleged unlawful practice occurred, but in some cases can be brought where relevant employment records are kept, where the employment would have been, or where the respondent has its main office. If you have simple questions, you usually can get answers from the office of the clerk of the court where you are bringing suit, but do not expect that office to write your complaint or make legal strategy decisions for you.

PRIVATE SUIT RIGHTS -- Equal Pay Act (EPA):

EPA suits must be filed in court within 2 years (3 years for willful violations) of the alleged EPA underpayment: back pay due for violations that occurred **more than 2 years (3 years) before you file suit** may not be collectible. For example, if you were underpaid under the EPA for work performed from 7/1/08 to 12/1/08, you should file suit **before 7/1/10** -- not 12/1/10 -- in order to recover unpaid wages due for July 2008. This time limit for filing an EPA suit is separate from the 90-day filing period under Title VII, the ADA, GINA or the ADEA referred to above. Therefore, if you also plan to sue under Title VII, the ADA, GINA or the ADEA, in addition to suing on the EPA claim, suit must be filed within 90 days of this Notice and within the 2- or 3-year EPA back pay recovery period.

ATTORNEY REPRESENTATION -- Title VII, the ADA or GINA:

If you cannot afford or have been unable to obtain a lawyer to represent you, the U.S. District Court having jurisdiction in your case may, in limited circumstances, assist you in obtaining a lawyer. Requests for such assistance must be made to the U.S. District Court in the form and manner it requires (you should be prepared to explain in detail your efforts to retain an attorney). Requests should be made well before the end of the 90-day period mentioned above, because such requests do not relieve you of the requirement to bring suit within 90 days.

ATTORNEY REFERRAL AND EEOC ASSISTANCE -- All Statutes:

You may contact the EEOC representative shown on your Notice if you need help in finding a lawyer or if you have any questions about your legal rights, including advice on which U.S. District Court can hear your case. If you need to inspect or obtain a copy of information in EEOC's file on the charge, please request it promptly in writing and provide your charge number (as shown on your Notice). While EEOC destroys charge files after a certain time, all charge files are kept for at least 6 months after our last action on the case. Therefore, if you file suit and want to review the charge file, **please make your review request within 6 months of this Notice**. (Before filing suit, any request should be made within the next 90 days.)

IF YOU FILE SUIT, PLEASE SEND A COPY OF YOUR COURT COMPLAINT TO THIS OFFICE.